Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—For about three to four months.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan:— What are the chief points which the Government considered in this matter ?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:— All relative points connected with the management of the estate.

Major Departments of the State—Reduction of expenditure in.

122. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what steps the Government propose to take to reduce expenditure in the major Departments of the State Administration?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—Government have not considered the question.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— Has this question been brought to the notice of the Government before ?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:— I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—In the last meeting of the last Legislative Session was not a resolution moved regarding this subject and was not the resolution discussed in this Council ?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:— I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Was not this point, Sir, pressed in the recent sitting of the Standing Finance Committee ?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:— The point was raised in the Standing Finance Committee and the point has been noted.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Am I to take it, Sir, that Government had already an occasion to consider this question ?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:— The point has been noted. Definite action will be taken on this point when considered necessary.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Will they expedite ?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:— Government have not considered the question. If necessity arises they will.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan:— May I know what is the use of noting this point ?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:— The points are noted for the guidance of the Government and if an occasion should arise regarding a point they would consider it.

Professional beggars.

123. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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(1) whether they are aware that the number of professional beggars, particularly that of the able bodied ones, are increasing by leaps and bounds every year in the State ;

(2) whether they have any idea of the number of these beggars in the State;

(3) if so what it is ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— (1) The available information is contained in the Cochin Census Report 1931.

(2) and (3). Do not arise.

Mr. E Ikkanda Warriar:— Since the Census report gives only the official information available on the point, may I know whether there is any non-official information on the point ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Government are not aware of this information.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Do not the officers when they go about come across beggars wherever they go ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— My personal experience is that there is no increase in their number. From time immemorial there were beggars. I cannot vouchsafe there is an increase.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— What about the figures after 1931 ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Government are not aware of any official information.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Are the Government aware that all progressive Governments are actively tackling with the solution of this problem?

Mr. President:— They do.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— How is our Government an exception to the rule ? I infer that much lethargy and indifference is shown in the matter from the attitude which they were exhibiting in this Council including even yesterday.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— What have they done to tackle this problem ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—Personally I know of two or three steps. The first is Poor Houses and we have a Poor House in Ernakulam and the Hon'ble Member for Medicine said yesterday that those who are taken there are in a great hurry to get out. So the experiment of Poor Houses does not show very satisfactory results. The next is that if they are minded to work I think there are many lines which they could take up; for instance the broadening of the Railway line and the Harbour. I went among the workers to know whether as a matter of fact any beggar can be

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found among the coolies who were working on the lines. I found that very few of the beggars were taking advantage of it. One other matter which I might refer to is the Royal grant of 1,000 house sites. I shall make it a point whether beggars in the streets could be induced to take up these house sites and work up these acres.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Do not the Government think that only a planned economy will be a solution to this question?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—It is a very large question and without further information, I shall not be justified nor shall I be able to give a reply.

Mr. E. P. Bhaskara Menon:—Are we to infer that after the repeated trials Government are at their wits' end to help the beggars?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—I have said what the Government have been doing and what the Government would be doing.

Miss. P. Meenakshikutty Amma:—The Hon'ble Member for Revenue divided the beggars into three classes, able bodied not willing to work, able bodied and willing to work and those who are suffering from diseases. I wish to know what have the Government done with regard to the third class of beggars?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—Alm Houses and asylums are the only remedy.

Miss P. Meenakshikutty Amma:—There are not sufficient number of them. This ought to engage the attention of the Government. There are many beggars suffering from several diseases.

Mr. President:—There is the Leper Asylum.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—There are the hospitals, there is the Mental Hospital. Whether any further amenities or facilities should be afforded to these people may also be considered.

Miss. P. Meenakshikutty Amma:—In spite of the fact that there is a Leper Asylum I find that many lepers are wandering in the streets begging for alms. I myself used to give them alms and on all such occasions I find they are suffering from some disease or other. If they are allowed to wander about the streets it will be causing an injury both to the beggars as well as to the public at large.

Mr. P. J. Alexander:—For whom are the Poor Houses meant?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:—For the disabled.

Mr. E. P. Bhaskara Menon:—Although Government define the hospitals as asylums for the poor beggars, the authorities in charge of the hospitals welcome the rich people better than the poor beggars.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—It is not a fact.

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Mr. E. P. Bhaskara Menon:—Will the Government be pleased to answer the question raised by the Lady Member?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—It is a very large question and the Hon'ble Member will not require me to give him an answer without looking more into it. I have no doubt that the point is one worth investigating.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Will the Government be pleased to provide work and wages to these beggars in the near future?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon: - It was answered yesterday.

Mr. President:—I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by conducting a quasi discussion like this. If Hon'ble Members are interested in this question I would advise them to put down a resolution and offer constructive suggestions.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—On a point of order, Sir. May I know whether in the absence of a Member who has given notice of a question, any other Member will be allowed to put supplementary questions?

Mr. President:—I do not know what the practice in this Council is. The usual practice elsewhere is that the member who has put a question if absent usually authorises any other member in writing to the President and he is permitted to ask questions. I have no objection to follow that practice here.

Anyhow I shall be prepared to allow any member to put supplementary questions without such authorisation, for the present.

Mr. E Ikkanda Warriar:—We shall take advantage of that.

Registrar of Co-operative Societies—Appointment of.

124. Mr. P. Raman Menon:— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what was the actual pay of the present Co-operative Registrar before he was appointed to officiate;

(b) what pay he is now drawing in his new office;

(c) how long he has been in the Department now;

(d) for how many months he was in the foreign countries for further studies?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon:— (a) Rs. 60.

(b) Rs. 250.

(c) 8½ years.

(d) 1 year.

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